



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: James M. Florence  
Serial No.: 10/053,026  
Filing Date: January 18, 2002  
Group No.: 2874  
Examiner: Unknown  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ADDING OR  
DROPPING A COMPONENT OF AN OPTICAL  
SIGNAL

Commissioner of Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

*Sandra Muller*  
Sandra Muller

*3/19/04*  
Date of Signature

Dear Sir:

**SECOND REQUEST FOR STATUS**

Applicant respectfully inquires about the status of the above-identified patent application. Applicant filed a Request for Status with the PTO on June 16, 2003. In reply to the Request for Status, the PTO issued a "Status Letter Reply" dated June 19, 2003 that indicated the application would be examined in February 2004. However, that time frame has now passed and, to date, Applicant has not received any communication on the merits. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests notice of when the first Office Action on the merits will be issued.

If there are any matters that can be cleared up through a telephone conversation, please contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicant



Kevin J. Meek  
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Date: March 19, 2004

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